position has not changed appreciably except, for instance, in the matter of demonstration of improved methods of agriculture and so on. The number of such demonstrations has been daily increasing and the policy of the Government is to keep on increasing them.

2. You touched upon the subject of agricultural schools. You know there is a school at Alwaye which gives very fine teaching to the students. But instead of going back to the land, it seems that the students all want Government posts. So, it does not look as if we were attracting the right class of students to the school. Unless you and other gentlemen like you, who are interested in the cause of agricultural education, find the right class of students, I am afraid the actual benefit accruing to the country from the school must be inadequate. That being the position, I do not think we can go very rapidly forward increasing the number of agricultural schools.

3. The other points which you have taken up will be borne in mind, and you can rest assured that when each question arises, the Government will not neglect to do the needful.

46. Agriculture in Nanjinad.

MR. R. SIVASUBRAHMANYA NADAR (*Member, Nominated*) said that the State was not self-contained in its supply of paddy and salt in spite of the fact that they were the main occupation of the people of Nanjinad and most part of the country was under paddy cultivation. Chief among the reasons was the growing debility of the land brought on by insufficiency of green-leaf manure. The manurial strength of old fields was diminishing on account of percolation of water and the new fields brought under the plough had not enough of manure. Furthermore, large areas of land which were used for growing green-leaf were converted into arable lands under the Kodayar scheme with the result that there was utter dearth of green-leaf manure. Although the Government had in their order, dated the 14th December 1920, sanctioned the growing of green-leaf on lands appurtenant to the respective fields, the revenue authorities took proceedings against the adjacent owners for encroachment and imposed fine and prohibitory assessment. It was therefore prayed that the ryots should be permitted to grow green-leaf manure on *porambokes* without their being subjected to fine or prohibitory assessment.

There should be cart roads through expansive wet lands, along channel bunds and embankments of irrigation tanks, for transport of manure and for facilitating the development of agriculture. Specifically, the ryots' road from the Parakkai tank to Tamaracolam should be taken over by the Government for maintenance, and the following roads should be newly opened :—(1) from Vettimurithan Esakkikoil on the Cape road to meet the Anchugramam, (2) a road to Prantanericheri along the Prantaneri, (3) a road from the 49th mile of the Cape road to Devakulam and (4) a road from Azhakappapuram along the embankment of the Chenkalur tank to meet the Maharajapuram road.

More lands than could be irrigated by the Tovala channel have been brought under wet cultivation, so much so that scarcity of water arose even at the 27th mile of the channel. A tank at the tail end of the Tovala channel should therefore be constructed and the existing ones improved so that the necessary water might be stored in them for supply during the dry months. A responsible officer solely for the distribution of water from the Tovala channel should also be appointed.

The assessment on *pandarapattam* lands and lands held on similar tenures which was now very heavy should be reduced.

Lastly, the salt cultivation in Travancore was also in a state of decline. Percolation of fresh water and insufficiency of brine were the causes which led to it. That these hindrances to effective manufacture should be removed and the cultivators encouraged by raising the *kudivaram* to two-fifths of the salt produced and by putting a stop to the system of storage.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar, in regard to the first point taken up in your representation, *viz.*, that of affording facilities for the growing of green-leaf manure, I may tell you that the question has been carefully considered by

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the Government. It was settled at a conference with the Director of Agriculture. He has arranged for a compact block of 200 acres to be planted for the purpose of obtaining green-leaf manure. He has also been able to distribute a lot of seeds. The Forest Department too has received instructions to make as much green-leaf manure available as possible.

2. In regard to the second point, *i. e.*, the opening of cart roads through paddy lands and along channel embankments, each case has to be decided on its merits. There is no laying down a general rule on the subject. The Chief Engineer has to inspect each spot and see whether it would be possible to find suitable lands.

3. In regard to the construction of a tank at the tail end of the Tovala channel and improvement of existing ones, the Chief Engineer says that all the useful old tanks are being preserved and maintained for storage of water. He is already investigating the matter of improving the tank at the tail end. So you can take it that the Chief Engineer has got that in hand at present.

4. In regard to the reduction of heavy assessment on *pandarapattam* lands, it has first to be established that the assessment is excessively heavy, and, in any case, the revision of the assessment must stand over and be an item in any general resettlement of the country that may take place.

5. Your representation regarding salt culture will receive consideration.

47. Agricultural improvements with special reference to Central Travancore.

MR. DEVARU VASUDEVARU (*Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division*) first referred to the means of improving the paddy cultivation of certain portions of Central Travancore. These were (1) improvement of the Illimala *todu* which coursed through the Pandanad *pakuthi* and (2) improvement of the Mannar road. In regard to the former, he said that it was useful for the proper cultivation of 7,000 *paras* of *punja* lands and 10,000 *paras* of double crop lands, which had since become silted up. The result was that during the month of Kanni, crops were spoilt through stagnation of water and during Makaram through scarcity. The *todu* should therefore be deepened and rendered useful again. In regard to the Mannar road, he said that, if improved, it would be helpful to the cultivation of the 17,000 *paras* of paddy lands referred to.

Next, the question of the improvement of the *punja* cultivation in Kuttanad was taken up. Besides destroying the bacteria which happened to be the hindrance to effective cultivation there, it was necessary to open up the Cherimuttu *todu* which promoted the cultivation of the *punja* lands in Talavadi, Anaparambu, Edattuva, Champakulam and other places.

Besides these, the Member made the following general suggestions :—

(i) Agricultural demonstration farms should be opened in each taluk.

(ii) Experimental and demonstration farms should be attached to the schools as in Germany, America and other countries.

(iii) More manure depots, cattle farms and seed depots should be opened.

(iv) Agricultural boards should be established and exhibitions arranged.

(v) Most important of all, the officers of the Agricultural Department should move freely with the agricultural population in the rural areas and advise them in agricultural matters.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Devaru Vasudevaru, as you gave no hint at all when you gave notice of the subject as to what the nature of your representations would be, it is not possible to give a definite answer to you except in respect of one item, *i. e.*, Illimala *todu*. In respect of that *todu*, an investigation has been made and an estimate is being prepared.

48. Agriculture in the Pattanapuram taluk.

MR. C. PERCY BHANU (*Member, Pattanapuram taluk*) made the following suggestions for the development of agriculture in the Pattanapuram taluk, which was the only *puduval* taluk in the Quilon Division.

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